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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/499,705 02/08/00 CHUANG

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MMC2/0629

EXAMINER

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DINH, T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2841

DATE MAILED:

06/29/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/499,705

Applicant(s)

Chuang et al

Examiner

Tuan T Dinh

Art Unit

2841

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 February 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-11 and 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1-11 and 13-16 are vague and indefinite because the reference to "first, second, and third industry standard specifications" in the claims make the claims inherently vague and indefinite as industry standards are subject to change and/or revision.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schuck (U. S. Patent 4,400,049).

Schuck discloses as to claim 1 a motherboard assembly shown in figure 4 comprising a motherboard (54, column 4, line 15) and an expansion card (48, column 4, line 11). The expansion board is detachably connected to said motherboard and has at

least one slot (10, column 4, line 12). The motherboard and motherboard assembly comply with first and second industry standard specifications.

Schuck discloses as to claim 2 the motherboard assembly shown in figure 4 wherein said motherboard (54), at first edge thereof, is provided with a first connection device (52, column 4, line 15). The expansion board, at a second edge thereof, is provided with a second connection device (not shown, see figure 4) for making connection thereof to the first connection device.

Schuck discloses as to claim 3 the motherboard assembly shown in figure 4 wherein when the expansion board is connected to the motherboard. The second edge is adjacent to the first edge (see figures 4 and 5).

Schuck discloses as to claims 4 and 5 the motherboard assembly shown in figure 4 wherein the first industry standard specification is the FlexATX specification, and the second industry standard specification is the MicroATX specification.

Schuck discloses as to claim 6 the motherboard assembly shown in figure 4 wherein the first connection device and second connection device comprise a first bus (a connector 52); the at least one slot of the expansion card comprises a slot of a second bus (10).

Schuck discloses as to claim 7 a motherboard assembly shown in figure 5 comprising a motherboard (62), and first and second expansion boards (60, 66). The first expansion board is detachably connected to the motherboard (62) having at least one first slot (10). The second expansion board (66), is detachably connected to the first expansion board (60) having at least one second slot, wherein when the second

expansion board is connected to the first expansion board and the first expansion board is connected to the motherboard at the same time.

Schuck discloses as to claim 8 the motherboard assembly shown in figure 5 wherein the motherboard, at a first edge thereof, is provided with a first connection device, and the first expansion board, at a second edge thereof, is provided with a second connection device for making connection thereof to the first connection device. The first expansion board, at a third edge thereof, is provided with a third connection device on a third edge thereof, and the second expansion board, at a fourth edge thereof, is provided with a fourth connection device for making connection thereof to the third connection device (not shown, see figure 5).

Schuck discloses as to claim 9 the motherboard assembly shown in figure 5 wherein when the first expansion board is connected to the motherboard, the second edge is adjacent to the first edge, and wherein when the second expansion board is connected to the first expansion board, the fourth edge is adjacent to the third edge.

Schuck discloses as to claim 10 the motherboard assembly shown in figure 5 wherein the first industry standard specification is the FlexATX specification, the second industry standard specification is the MicroATX specification, and the third industry standard specification is the ATX specification.

Schuck discloses as to claim 11 the motherboard assembly shown in figure 5 wherein the first and second connection devices (10) comprise a first bus, respectively. The at least one slot comprises a slot of a second bus.

Schuck discloses as to claim 12-14 the motherboard assembly shown in figure 4 comprising: a motherboard (54) having a first edge thereof, a first connection device (52) being provided at the first edge, the first connection device comprising a first bus. An expansion board (48) with at least one slot (10), the expansion board being detachably connected to the first connection device of the motherboard via a second connection device provided at a second edge of the expansion board. The second edge is adjacent to the first edge. The at least one slot comprise a slot of a second bus.

Schuck discloses as to claim 15-16 the motherboard assembly shown in figure 4 wherein the first industry standard specification is the FlexATX specification, and the second industry standard specification is the MicroATX specification.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Gierut and Burnworth et al disclose related art.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan T Dinh whose telephone number is 703-306-5856. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin can be reached on 703-308-3301. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-3431 for regular communications and 703-308-3431 for After Final communications.

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Art Unit: 2841

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

TD
June 19, 2001

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. P. [unclear]", is written over a faint, circular official stamp. The stamp contains the text "Patent Office" and "Washington, D.C. 20540".